

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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REPLY TO: 4600 Forest Disease Research

SUBJECT: Identification of Scleroderris Canker in Pennsylvania

TO: Joel C. Rockinson, Allegheny NF

*Be on look-out
for Scleroderris
on ANF*

Our forest disease project has been studying the biology of Scleroderris Canker on red pine for several years. This disease was probably introduced into the United States some thirty years ago. At present we consider it the most serious disease known on red pine. In the Lake States region the disease seems to be limited to young trees and is considered a disease of juvenile stands. Recent developments in New York however have shown that the disease can cause extensive mortality in both red and Scotch pine of all ages from seedlings to sawlog size trees. The disease is currently causing serious mortality in pole size trees in Franklin, Lewis, and possibly Herkimer counties in New York. In several cases the entire plantation has been killed within a few years.

Based on our research we consider Scleroderris to be a disease of areas with short growing seasons, cool summer temperatures, and heavy winter snow pack. According to our climatic charts, the area east of Bradford fits this climatic description. We would appreciate it if you would alert your district personell to this potential disease hazard and ask them to watch for it in any red pine stands they may encounter. We realize that the Allegheny is primarily a hardwood forest without extensive pine stands, however the potential loss from this disease is so great that we are interested in all infected areas.

From the research standpoint we are trying to determine the limiting climatic factors that influence the development of this disease. At this point we are very concerned as to why the disease is so much more serious in large trees in New York than in the Lake States. For this reason we are interested in observing Scleroderris in as many climatic zones as possible.

We are enclosing some leaflets that may be of assistance to your people in identification of Scleroderris under field conditions. We will be happy to confirm the identification of any suspect samples you may collect.

DARROLL D SKILLING
Principal Plant Pathologist

Enclosure

DDSkilling:jms

cc TM, r-9; H.D. Brown, S&PF; Bob Anerson, S&PF; FD Project, Upper Darby